

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/618,584

Examiner

Joseph W. Drodge

Applicant(s)

MORITA, SHOJI

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on 11 January 2007.
2. ☐ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8-19, now renumbered claims 1-12.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 0206
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 8-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

Neither the prior art of record, the prior art now considered submitted with the 0206 IDS Statement, or newly cited and considered Attwood patent 2,032,828 suggest or teach the combination of limitations of claim 8 having a biasing unit for urging the partition member in a direction to increase the volume of the oil suction chamber, and such that when the cover is attached to the housing main body, the partition member is pushed down into the recessed portion of the cover against the bias of the biasing unit and also wherein the biasing unit holds the partition member pressed against the housing main body so that the volume of the oil suction chamber increases as the cover is moved increasingly away from the housing main body upon removal of the cover.

Attwood is now deemed to constitute the closest prior art, and is deemed to disclose the claimed elements of housing main body with inlet and outlet passages, detachable cover, partition member between filter chamber and suction chamber disposed on bottom portion of cover and containing communication passages between filter chamber in main body and suction/debris-collecting chamber in the cover, seal member and biasing unit for urging or maintaining position of partition member and filter element in the filter chamber. However, neither Attwood or any other prior art of record fairly suggest the cover having a recessed portion, with claimed structural relationship of biasing unit, partition member and oil suction chamber, especially so as to increase the

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volume of the oil suction chamber as the cover is moved away from the housing main body; in Atwood for instance, the suction chamber is defined by the interior of the cover and is configured so as to remain the same volume whether cover is attached or being removed from the housing main body.


Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph W. Drodge whose telephone number is 571-272-1140. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JWD


JOSEPH DRODGE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

31 January 2007